**Shallow storage conditions at Krafla IDDP-1 revealed by rhyolite-MELTS** 

# **geobarometry, and implications for global shallow magmatism**

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# **Abstract**

 Identifying the storage depths of melt-dominated magma bodies prior to eruption is critical for understanding magma transport, eruption hazards, and magma body longevity. Rhyolite-MELTS has been used effectively to calculate pre-eruptive storage pressures for silicic magma bodies in 11 the upper crust (~100-350 MPa), but its precision and accuracy in very low-pressure systems (<100 MPa) has not been sufficiently investigated. During the recent Krafla IDDP-1 drilling project, magma was surprisingly intersected at 2.1 km depth. Here, we test the use of rhyolite- MELTS geobarometry for this very low-pressure system, using natural Krafla IDDP-1 compositions that were stored at a known depth. We input the composition of the melt (preserved 16 as glass) and search in pressure and temperature space at a range of oxygen fugacity  $(f_{O2})$  to model the storage conditions of the Krafla magma. For the average composition of the drilled melt, rhyolite-MELTS yields reasonable storage pressures (~40-50 MPa). After converting calculated pressure to depth, the calculated depths are 1.6-1.9 km. These estimates are only 0.2- 0.5 km different from that of the intersected magma, showing that rhyolite-MELTS provides excellent estimates for very shallow magma storage, further strengthened by results from a Monte Carlo analysis. The agreement between rhyolite-MELTS pressures and the drilled depth of the Krafla magma supports the previously calculated very shallow storage pressures in other locations, like the Taupō Volcanic Zone (TVZ), Aotearoa New Zealand. This shallowest storage zone of melt-dominated magmas has significant implications for modeling volcanic unrest and evaluating geothermal and economic resource potential.

# **Keywords**

Shallow magma, rhyolite-MELTS, geobarometry, Krafla

#### **Introduction**

#### *Motivation*

Rhyolitic magmas are integral to the formation and differentiation of the crust, especially of the

upper crust. They often erupt explosively and are responsible for some of the largest eruptions on

record (Lowenstern *et al.*, 2006; Self, 2006; Miller and Wark, 2008). Identifying where melt-

dominated magma bodies of rhyolite form and are stored in the crust is critical for understanding

magma body generation and longevity (Gualda *et al.*, 2012b; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2015a, 2021; Till *et* 

*al.*, 2015; Bachmann and Huber, 2016; Townsend and Huber, 2020), magma decompression and

ascent (Putirka, 2016a; Polacci *et al.*, 2017; Cassidy *et al.*, 2018; Caricchi *et al.*, 2021), and

eruption hazards (Tilling, 2008; Aspinall and Blong, 2015; Cassidy and Mani, 2022).

Substantial effort and progress have been made to determine the depths of pre-eruptive magma

storage via erupted products using a variety of methods, for instance: clinopyroxene and

amphibole geobarometry (Blundy and Holland, 1990; Thomas and Ernst, 1990; Schmidt, 1992;

Nimis and Ulmer, 1998; Putirka et al., 2003; Putirka, 2008, 2016b; Mutch et al., 2016; Neave

and Putirka, 2017; Petrelli et al., 2020; Jorgenson et al., 2022; Wieser et al., 2022, 2023), fluid-

inclusion geobarometry (Moore, 2008; Wallace *et al.*, 1999; Anderson *et al.*, 2000) , and field

work in volcanic-plutonic systems (Hogan and Gilbert, 1995; du Bray and Pallister, 1999; Bachl

*et al.*, 2001; Ferguson *et al.*, 2013; Deering *et al.*, 2016; Chen *et al.*, 2021; Wallrich *et al.*, 2023).

As well, indirect observations document magma and magma bodies via geophysical methods

(Lees, 2007; Lerner *et al.*, 2020; Paulatto *et al.*, 2022).

49 Pre-eruptive magma storage depths of rhyolites are typically considered to be  $\geq$  3 km, with the

depth of 5-10 km commonly considered the dominant depth range of upper crustal magmas that

feed eruptions to the surface (Cashman and Giordano, 2014; Cashman *et al.*, 2017; Tramontano

*et al.*, 2017; Huber *et al.*, 2019). However, there are also multiple examples of inferred present-

day shallow magma storage, at depths < 3 km, for instance: Larderello geothermal field, Italy

(Cameli *et al.*, 1993; Manzella *et al.*, 2017; Rochira *et al.*, 2018) and Dabbahu volcano, Afar,

Ethiopia (Wright *et al.*, 2006; Ebinger *et al.*, 2008). Several instances where magma has been

directly intersected at much shallower depths via drilling document unequivocally the existence

of very shallow silicic magma storage. They are: 1) Puna Geothermal field, Hawai'i at 2.5 km in

2005 (Teplow *et al.*, 2009); 2) Menengai Caldera, Kenya at 2.1 km and 2.2 km in 2011-2014

- from well MW-04 and MW-06 (Mbia *et al.*, 2015); and 3) Krafla geothermal system, Iceland at
- 2.6 km in 2008 from well KJ-39 in the Suðurhliðar well field (Mortensen *et al.*, 2010) and at 2.1
- km in 2009 from the Krafla IDDP-1 well (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013).
- Thermodynamic phase-equilibria modeling via rhyolite-MELTS has been utilized to determine

pre-eruptive storage conditions, including depth and *fO2*, in predominantly silicic systems

(Gualda *et al.*, 2012a; Bégué *et al.*, 2014b; Gualda and Ghiorso, 2014; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2015b;

- Harmon *et al.*, 2018). Here, we investigate the efficacy of rhyolite-MELTS geobarometry to
- infer the presence of very shallow magma bodies. Krafla IDDP-1 glass compositions provide a
- natural laboratory to test the validity and sensitivity of this approach for evaluating shallow
- storage depths of silicic magmas.

*Krafla*

The Krafla central volcano is located within the Northern Rift Zone of Iceland. Krafla has

- erupted predominantly basalt throughout its ~300 ka volcanic history (Thorarinsson, 1979;
- Sæmundsson, 1991), and there have been at least 8 rhyolitic eruptions (Sæmundsson, 1991;
- Jonasson, 1994; Rooyakkers *et al.*, 2021). The Krafla caldera collapsed at ~110 ka (Calderone *et*
- *al.*, 1990; Sæmundsson and Pringle, 2000; Rooyakkers *et al.*, 2019), and the modern-day
- geothermal field is located within this caldera structure. The most recent eruption is the Krafla
- Fires, which continued intermittently from 1975 to 1984, and did not contain rhyolite (Einarsson,
- 1978; Hollingsworth *et al.*, 2012). The most recent rhyolitic eruption, the 1724 C.E. Mývatn
- Fires rifting episode that formed the Víti maar is compositionally similar to the IDDP-1 glass
- studied here. These compositions are distinct form previous rhyolitic eruption from Krafla
- (Rooyyakers et al., 2021)
- There has been substantial geothermal exploration since 1974, which has revealed extensive
- active geothermal systems and refined the understanding of the subsurface geology (Árnadóttir *et*
- *al.*, 1998; Árnason *et al.*, 2008; Kennedy *et al.*, 2018, 2018b; Árnason, 2020).
- In 2009, during the IDDP drilling project, the IDDP-1 well was designed to drill to 4-5 km depth
- (Frioleifsson *et al.*, 2014), but surprisingly intercepted magma at 2.1 km, despite substantial
- seismic and subsurface imaging (Elders *et al.*, 2011). Quenched glass fragments were recovered
- in the drill cuttings and allow observation and analysis of magma intercepted at depth (Elders *et*
- *al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta *et al.*, 2018). The magma is rhyolitic (~76.1-77.3 wt%

89 SiO<sub>2</sub>) with ~1.8 wt% dissolved volatiles of mixed  $H_2O-CO_2$  (Elders *et al.*, 2011), suggesting

- saturation pressures of ~40 MPa (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). Intersected rhyolite was in contact
- with a felsite host (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta *et al.*, 2018). Isotopically,
- the magma is likely formed from melting hydrothermally altered basalt as opposed to forming
- via fractional crystallization (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Kennedy *et al.*, 2018).
- Previous work on the IDDP-1 drill cuttings includes major-element glass analyses, bubble
- texture analyses, and experimental studies (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta
- *et al.*, 2018; Rooyakkers *et al.*, 2021; Saubin *et al.*, 2021). We point the reader to several
- excellent studies for further information, including: Elders *et al.* (2011), Saubin *et al.* (2021),
- Zierenberg *et al.* (2013), and Masotta *et al.* (2018).

*Rhyolite-MELTS*

 Rhyolite-MELTS is an internally consistent phase-equilibria thermodynamic model. We utilize rhyolite-MELTS to determine the magmatic conditions at which a melt of a given composition is in equilibrium with a known/observed mineral assemblage (Gualda *et al.*, 2012a; Bégué *et al.*, 2014b; Gualda and Ghiorso, 2014; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2015b; Harmon *et al.*, 2018, 2024; Smithies *et al.*, 2023). We use the composition of natural volcanic glass from Krafla as a proxy for the magmatic melt, and we search for the conditions at which melt of the given composition is in equilibrium with an expected mineral assemblage. The pressure calculated by rhyolite-MELTS is the pressure at which the melt was last in equilibrium with the mineral assemblage, which is interpreted to be the pre-eruptive magma storage pressure. This is particularly appropriate for Krafla IDDP-1 magmas, given that they were sampled at depth, without any effects of ascent and eruption.

- Rhyolite-MELTS geobarometry has been applied to a variety of volcanic systems (Gualda and
- Ghiorso, 2013a; Bégué *et al.*, 2014b; Gualda *et al.*, 2018; Foley *et al.*, 2020; Pamukçu *et al.*,
- 2021; Pitcher *et al.*, 2021; Seropian *et al.*, 2021; Smithies *et al.*, 2023; Harmon *et al.*, 2024). For
- the most part, these studies have shown that pre-eruptive storage predominately takes place
- under pressures of ~100-300 MPa. Nonetheless, work focusing on the Taupō Volcanic Zone
- (TVZ) has revealed a subset of rhyolite-MELTS pressures of ~50-75 MPa (Bégué *et al.*, 2014b,
- 2014a; Gualda *et al.*, 2018; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2020; Harmon *et al.*, 2024). Because such shallow
- pressures were not as well constrained as others (see Bégué *et al.*, 2014b), these results and

their potential significance – have not been the focus of any of these studies. However, the

- existence of these very shallow pre-eruptive magma storage pressures (<100 MPa) hint that 1)
- there is a very shallow depth of pre-eruptive magma storage that has been relatively unexplored;
- and 2) rhyolite-MELTS has the potential to resolve very shallow magma storage.

 The well-studied Krafla system provides an opportunity to test the efficacy and precision of rhyolite-MELTS storage pressures for very shallow magma bodies, given that magma depth is known. Confirmation of rhyolite-MELTS pressures in the Krafla IDDP-1 case study would lend support to very shallow pressures indicated elsewhere in the world, with potentially important implications for our understanding of the architecture of magmatic systems that feed eruptions to

the surface.

#### **Materials and Methods**

#### *Krafla Glass Compositions*

We use the 31 natural quenched rhyolite glass compositions from Masotta *et al.* (2018) for

- Krafla IDDP-1 magmas, and we also calculate an average composition based on these 31
- compositions. These compositions are the rhyolite ("RHL") compositions from Masotta *et al.*
- (2018), which are most similar to the Melt 1 compositions reported by Zierenberg *et al.* (2013),
- interpreted to be generated by partial melting at depth (much deeper than the depth of
- intersection) of a hydrothermally altered basaltic crust (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). We take these
- RHL compositions from Masotta *et al.* (2018) to be best estimates of Krafla melt compositions,
- and we use them as input for rhyolite-MELTS calculations (see supplementary data for
- compositions). The compositions are retrieved from mm-sized glass pieces that rapidly quenched
- during interaction with the drilling fluids. The observed mineral assemblage in the mm-sized
- shards is plagioclase + augite + pigeonite + magnetite ± apatite (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta
- *et al.*, 2018), and the samples have <3% crystals (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). Volatile contents
- 143 measured using FTIR yield average total H<sub>2</sub>O content of  $\sim$  1.8 wt% and CO<sub>2</sub> content of  $\sim$  85 ppm
- (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). Directly adjacent to the melt-rich magma body was a partially melted
- 145 felsite with a mineralogy of plagioclase + alkali feldspar + quartz + augite + magnetite + zircon  $\pm$
- apatite (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013).
- While there has not been a direct estimate of the *fO2* for the magma intersected by the IDDP-1
- drilling, the *fO2* conditions of Krafla basalts have been calculated to be at the QFM buffer
- (Nicholson, 1990) or just above it (ΔQFM = +0.6-0.7) (Shorttle *et al.*, 2015; Hartley *et al.*, 2017;
- 150 Halldórsson *et al.*, 2018), which is ~1 log unit below the NNO buffer ( $\triangle NNO = -1$ ).
- *Projection onto the Haplogranitic Ternary Diagram*

We project all Krafla IDDP-1 compositions onto the quartz-albite-orthoclase haplogranitic

ternary using the projection scheme of Blundy and Cashman (2001), which yields a first order

estimate of crystallization pressures for melts in equilibrium with quartz and feldspar (Gualda

and Ghiorso, 2013b). For magmas in which quartz is absent, such as Krafla magmas, pressures

obtained with this projection represent maximum pressures of magma storage.

157 For comparison, we also project all TVZ compositions that produced pressures  $\leq 100$  MPa from

Bégué *et al.* (2014) and Gualda *et al.* (2018) onto the haplogranitic ternary. In this case, quartz is

generally observed, which suggests that projection onto the haplogranitic ternary yields best-

estimates of storage pressures.

# *Rhyolite-MELTS Calculations*

Rhyolite-MELTS geobarometry yields the pressures at which the input glass composition (the

best proxy for the magmatic melt composition) was last in equilibrium with the mineral

assemblage. We use MELTS\_Excel (Gualda and Ghiorso, 2015), following the methods detailed

in Gualda and Ghiorso (2014) for all pressure calculations. The inputs for rhyolite-MELTS are

the compositions of the quenched rhyolite glass retrieved from the Krafla IDDP-1 drilling

(Masotta *et al.*, 2018). Rhyolite-MELTS is not given any other information a priori, including the

mineral phases of interest. We search through pressure, temperature, and *fO2* space.

169 The ranges of pressure (200-10 MPa in 10 MPa steps), temperature (1100-700 °C in 1 °C steps),

and *fO2* (ΔNNO = -3, -2.5, -2, -1.5, -1.25, -1, -0.75, -0.5, and 0) were chosen to explore very

shallow storage pressures, from above the liquidus to near-solidus temperatures, and over the

- possible range of *fO2* expected for the system (Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). We
- 173 run all compositions at fluid saturated conditions, using a pure-H<sub>2</sub>O fluid model. At such shallow
- conditions, the Krafla magma is likely fluid saturated (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). Gualda and
- Ghiorso (2014) (2014) and Ghiorso and Gualda (2015) demonstrate that water has a small effect
- on calculated pressures for magmas that are rich in water.

Rhyolite-MELTS models the saturation surfaces of solid phases in equilibrium with the given

- melt composition. For the Krafla IDDP-1 compositions, phases that rhyolite-MELTS predicts to
- be possibly saturated under the conditions considered include quartz, plagioclase (labeled as
- feldspar1 in MELTS\_Excel results), orthopyroxene, and magnetite (labeled as spinel in
- MELTS\_Excel results); clinopyroxene is not predicted to be potentially saturated. The saturation
- surfaces of quartz and feldspar are not sensitive to *fO2*, in contrast to the saturation surfaces of
- orthopyroxene and magnetite, due to the presence of iron in orthopyroxene and magnetite.
- Therefore, pressure calculations that include orthopyroxene and, particularly, magnetite are
- highly dependent on *fO2*, which allows us to estimate *fO2* in addition to pressure (Harmon *et al.*,
- 2018; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2021). The differences between the observed and modeled mineral
- assemblages are discussed in further detail in the Discussion section.
- Following Foley *et al.* (2020) and Gualda et al. (XX in revision), we extend the methods of
- Gualda and Ghiorso (2014) and Harmon *et al.* (2018) to calculate equilibrium pressures of the
- simultaneous saturation in quartz, plagioclase, orthopyroxene, and magnetite (which we label
- P\_4 QFOM). We also calculate pressures based on the simultaneous saturation in quartz,
- plagioclase, and orthopyroxene (P\_3 QFO); and based on the simultaneous saturation in quartz,
- plagioclase, and magnetite (P\_3 QFM). We note that all three conditions (P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO,
- and P\_3 QFM) imply saturation in quartz and plagioclase, which are independent of *fO2*.
- 195 For P<sub>4</sub> QFOM pressures, we calculate a pressure when the residual temperature (the minimum range in saturation temperature for all phases at a single pressure, calculated by subtracting the
- saturation temperatures of the mineral phase with the highest saturation temperature from the
- 198 mineral phase with the lowest saturation temperature at a single pressure) is less than 10  $^{\circ}$ C
- (Figure 1). If no acceptable P\_4 QFOM pressure is found, we calculate P\_3 QFM and P\_3 QFO
- 200 pressures if the residual temperature is less than or equal to  $5^{\circ}$ C, as in Gualda and Ghiorso
- (2014). The larger residual cutoff for P\_4 QFOM is used due to uncertainties inherent in the
- exercise of finding an intersection between 4 saturation surfaces, particularly when two of them are affected by *fO2*.
- 204 To convert the calculated pressures to depths, we use  $h = P/(\rho^*g)$  where h is the depth (m),  $\rho$  is
- 205 the density of the crust (estimated to be 2,500-2,700 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), P is the calculated pressure (Pa), and
- 206 g is the acceleration due to gravity  $(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2)$ . We report the depths in units of km, so that we do
- not overinterpret the precision of the rhyolite-MELTS results. This represents the lithostatic
- pressure, which is a maximum depth assuming no hydrostatic component of the system.

#### *Monte Carlo Analysis*

- To determine the reproducibility, variability, and precision of the rhyolite-MELTS pressure and
- *fO2* estimates, we conduct a Monte Carlo analysis (Gualda and Ghiorso, 2014; Pamukçu *et al.*,
- 2021; Pitcher *et al.*, 2021; Smithies *et al.*, 2023) using 600 synthetic glass compositions based on
- the average Krafla composition and uncertainty around this composition. The *fO2* was allowed to
- 214 vary in 0.5 ΔNNO steps from  $\triangle NNO = -3$  to 0. The rhyolite-MELTS calculations in the Monte
- Carlo simulations explore the same pressure and temperature ranges detailed above.

#### **Results**

# *Projection onto the Haplogranitic Ternary Diagram*

- The average Krafla rhyolite composition plots approximately on the 50 MPa cotectic curve in the
- Qz'-Ab'-Or' ternary diagram (Figure 2). Individual compositions have values that range from
- just above the 50 MPa cotectic (i.e, shifted towards the Qz' vertex) to just below the 100 MPa
- cotectic (i.e., shifted towards the Ab'-Or' join). These results correspond to maximum pressures
- that range from slightly less than 50 MPa to slightly more than 100 MPa. The haplogranitic Qz'-
- Ab'-Or' ternary gives a first order estimate of the equilibration pressures. We emphasize that the
- absence of quartz simply imply that pressures should be lower than estimated from the diagram,
- suggesting that Krafla magmas equilibrated at very low pressures, most likely <50 MPa.
- As originally observed by Bégué *et al*. (2014a), when plotted on the Qz'-Ab'-Or' ternary
- 227 diagram, TVZ compositions that yield the lowest pressures exhibit low pressures (~50-150)
- MPa), but which are slightly higher than Krafla IDDP-1 pressures. The TVZ samples all contain
- quartz, indicating that these pressures can be unambiguously interpreted to be storage pressures.
- *Rhyolite-MELTS Pressures*
- A total of 26 of the 31 individual RHL Krafla compositions (84%) yield pressures for at least one
- of the nine *fO2* values we explored. Results from individual Krafla compositions are summarized
- in Table 1 and Figure 3. A total of 143 of the 279 rhyolite-MELTS runs (51%) yield storage
- pressures. Individual compositions can yield more than one pressure in the cases in which
- pressures are calculated for multiple *fO2* values.
- 236 Individual compositions return P\_4 QFOM pressures for  $f_{O2}$  values of  $\Delta$  NNO = -1 to -0.5, with
- 237 the most pressure calculations confined to the even narrower  $f_{O2}$  range of  $\triangle NNO = -1$  and -0.75.
- 238 The average pressure for all P\_4 QFOM pressures (regardless of  $f_{O2}$ ) is  $50 \pm 11$  MPa (1-sigma),
- 239 which corresponds to a depth of  $1.9-2.0 \pm 0.4$  km.
- 240 For more reducing conditions (*fO2* equal to ΔNNO = -3 to -1), individual compositions return
- 241 predominantly P\_3 QFO pressures. A total of 117/279 (42%) of the rhyolite-MELTS runs return
- 242 P\_3 QFO pressures. The average pressure for all P\_3 QFO pressures (regardless of  $f_{O2}$ ) is 44
- 243 MPa  $\pm$  11 MPa (1.7-1.8 km  $\pm$  0.4 km).
- 244 For more oxidizing conditions ( $f_{O2}$  equal to  $\Delta NNO = -1$  to 0), individual compositions return
- 245 predominantly P\_3 QFM pressures. A total of 46/279 (16%) of the rhyolite-MELTS runs return
- 246 P\_3 QFM pressures. The average pressure for all P\_3 QFM pressures (regardless of  $f_{O2}$ ) is 47
- 247 MPa  $\pm$  32 MPa (1.8-1.9 km  $\pm$  1.2-1.3 km).
- 248 The average Krafla IDDP-1 composition returns a P\_4 QFOM pressure of 42 MPa (1.6-1.7 km)
- 249 for  $ΔNNO = -0.75$  and  $46 MPa (1.7-1.9 km)$  for  $ΔNNO = -1$ . These are the only  $f_{O2}$  values that
- 250 return a P\_4 QFOM pressure for the average Krafla IDDP-1 composition, indicating that as
- 251 expected the calculations of storage pressure using four phases are highly dependent on *fO2*.
- 252 The sensitivity of the rhyolite-MELTS calculations to *fO2*, temperature, and pressure are
- 253 highlighted in Figure 4, where there is only a small "valley" in the average composition data that
- 254 produces P\_4 QFOM pressures. We highlight the average Krafla calculations, but the shape of
- 255 the surface in Figure 4 is similar for all individual rhyolite-MELTS calculations.
- 256 Only a narrow range of *fO2* values produce P\_4 QFOM pressures. The P\_3 QFM and P\_3 QFO
- 257 pressures show somewhat larger ranges of pressure and *fO2* (Figures 3 and 4). The overall
- 258 distribution of pressures is similar for all assemblages and *fO2* values.
- 259 *Monte Carlo Simulations*
- 260 Results from the Monte Carlo simulations are summarized in Figure 5 and Table 2. A total of
- 261 373/600 (62%) of rhyolite-MELTS runs return a valid pressure. The phase assemblages
- 262 considered are the same assemblages considered for the individual compositions (P\_4 QFOM,
- 263 P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM). There are 27 compositions (5%) that return P\_QFOM pressures. The
- 264 *f*<sub>O2</sub> values that produced these P 4 QFOM pressures are equal to  $\triangle NNO = -1$  (20 compositions)

and -0.5 (7 compositions). The average pressure for all P\_4 QFOM pressures (regardless of *fO2*)

- 266 is 48 MPa  $\pm$  8 MPa, which corresponds to a depth of 1.8-2.0 km  $\pm$  0.3 km assuming lithostatic pressure.
- There are 317/600 compositions (53%) that return P\_3 QFO pressures and 83 compositions
- (14%) return P\_3 QFM pressures. The average pressure for all P\_3 QFO pressures (regardless of
- $f_{O2}$ ) is 46 MPa  $\pm$  20 MPa (1.7-1.9 km  $\pm$  0.8 km) and the average pressure for all P 3 QFM
- 271 pressures (regardless of  $f_{O2}$ ) is 37 MPa  $\pm$  13 MPa (1.4-1.5 km  $\pm$  0.5 km). A similar trend to the
- individual compositions is observed, as P\_3 QFO pressures are calculated for more reducing
- conditions and P\_3 QFM pressures are calculated for more oxidizing conditions for the Monte
- Carlo results.

#### **Discussion**

#### *Hydrostatic vs lithostatic pressures*

 The quenched glass fragments retrieved from 2.1 km depth at the Krafla IDDP-1 well allow us to 278 test the reliability of rhyolite-MELTS pressures for very low pressures  $(\sim 50 \text{ MPa})$ , with important implications for our understanding of magma storage conditions. While the depth of the magma intersected by Krafla IDDP-1 is known, determining the *in situ* pressure conditions experienced by the magma is more nuanced. The bounds of acceptable pressures are defined by the lithostatic pressure and by the hydrostatic pressure. The lithostatic pressure for this magma at 283 2.1 km is ~51-56 MPa using a rock density of 2,500-2,700 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. In contrast, the hydrostatic 284 pressure is calculated to be  $\sim$  16 MPa (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013). Based on H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> 285 concentrations in glass determined with FTIR, Zierenberg et al. (2013) calculate an  $H_2O$ -CO<sub>2</sub> 286 saturation pressure of  $\sim$ 35-45 MPa using VolatileCalc and assuming a temperature of 900 °C (Newman and Lowenstern, 2002). Rhyolite-MELTS calculations return pressures between 288 lithostatic and the  $H_2O-CO_2$  saturation pressure, suggesting that the Krafla magma body was nearly fluid saturated, but possibly at a pressure slightly lower (<10 MPa) than the lithostatic pressure, similar to the results of Zierenberg *et al.* (2013). To summarize, the pressures calculated via VolatileCalc and rhyolite-MELTS yield pressures greater than the hydrostatic pressure and lower than the lithostatic pressure. In both cases, calculated pressures are closer to the lithostatic pressure (50-57 MPa) than to the hydrostatic pressure (16 MPa).

#### *Constraints from glass compositions*

- 295 When represented on a normalized anhydrous basis, the  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  contents of the Krafla glass
- 296 compositions have relatively low  $SiO_2$  concentrations (i.e., 76.7 wt%  $SiO_2$ ), much lower than
- 297 what would be expected from the correlation between  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and pressure found by Gualda and
- 298 Ghiorso (2013b), which would predict  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  values >78 wt% for such low pressures. This is
- easily explained by the much higher FeO values (2.9 wt% FeO for the average Krafla glass; see
- supplementary material) observed in the tholeiitic compositions when compared to more typical
- calc-alkaline systems studied by Gualda and Ghiorso (2013b), which only have 0.55-1.29 wt%
- FeO. In this case, the SiO<sub>2</sub> concentration alone cannot be used for estimation of crystallization
- 303 pressure using the relationship of Gualda & Ghiorso (2013b XX).
- The projection scheme of Blundy and Cashman (2001) circumvents the issue of high FeO values
- of the Krafla compositions by employing normative values for Qz', Ab', Or', and An (effectively
- this means compositions are considered on an FeO-free, MgO-free basis). While the Qz'-Ab'-
- Or' ternary projection diagram is a somewhat crude measure of pressure, the average Krafla
- IDDP-1 composition lies on the 50 MPa (1.9-2.0 km) cotectic (Figure 2), which indicates that the
- cotectic is in good agreement with the natural samples intercepted at 2.1 km. Importantly,
- pressures estimated using the Qz'-Ab'-Or' ternary are maximum pressures, given that the
- presence of quartz is not observed in the samples.

#### *Constraints from rhyolite-MELTS geobarometry*

- For the rhyolite-MELTS results, the average P\_4 QFOM pressure for the individual
- compositions is in excellent agreement with the drilling depth. The average P\_3 QFO pressure
- and P\_3 QFM pressure for the individual compositions are also in very good agreement with the
- observed depth. In addition to the pressure measurements, rhyolite-MELTS estimates the *fO2* of
- the Krafla system to be between ΔNNO = -0.5 and -1, which agrees with the reducing *fO2*
- estimates for Krafla magmas (Nicholson, 1990; Shorttle *et al.*, 2015; Hartley *et al.*, 2017). The
- results from the individual and average compositions are supported by the Monte Carlo results,
- which yield P\_4 QFOM pressures exclusively for *fO2* of ΔNNO = -1 and -0.5. In summary,
- 321 rhyolite-MELTS calculations indicate storage pressures of  $\leq$ 55 MPa, under reducing ( $\triangle NNO = -$
- 1 to -0.5) conditions. Furthermore, comparison of rhyolite-MELTS pressures with the fluid-

 saturation pressures of Zierenberg *et al.* (2013) suggests that Krafla IDDP-1 magmas were fluid-saturated, or very nearly so.

 There are two notable discrepancies between the reported mineral assemblage in the Krafla IDDP-1 samples and rhyolite-MELTS calculations. First, the P\_4 QFOM pressure results suggest that quartz is in equilibrium with the Krafla magmas despite no quartz being observed; as well, the pyroxene predicted by rhyolite-MELTS is orthopyroxene instead of the observed augite + pigeonite assemblage (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta *et al.*, 2018). While quartz has not been reported as part of the phenocryst assemblage within the mm-sized glass shards (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013; Masotta *et al.*, 2018), the small glass shards could make it very difficult to find any phenocrystic quartz crystals. However, we do not suggest that Zierenberg *et al.* (2013 and Masotta *et al.* (2018) missed the presence of quartz. Instead, a plausible alternative is that quartz was very near saturation and/or was saturated and kinetically suppressed. The fragments of the felsite crust directly adjacent to the melt-rich, crystal-poor magma body contain quartz and alkali feldspar (and plagioclase, augite, and titano-magnetite) (Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013), suggesting that Krafla magmas were in contact with quartz-bearing rocks. This proximity to a quartz-bearing felsite could have altered the composition of the melt during storage. The coincidence of the plagioclase and quartz saturation curves for the Krafla IDDP-1 compositions indicates that both minerals are saturated in rhyolite-MELTS calculations. Importantly, the only pressures that are consistent with the rhyolite-MELTS calculations are pressures lower than the calculated pressures. As such, similarly to the case of the haplogranitic ternary, we conclude that pressures are <55 MPa.

 Second, the pyroxenes observed in the Krafla IDDP-1 samples (augite + pigeonite) are both clinopyroxene. However, the rhyolite-MELTS calculations do not produce clinopyroxene for any conditions tested. Instead, the orthopyroxene saturation curve is ubiquitously present in rhyolite- MELTS calculations. For P\_4 QFOM, the orthopyroxene saturation curve is coincident with the quartz + plagioclase + magnetite saturation curves. We conducted several rhyolite-MELTS runs on the average composition while suppressing orthopyroxene. In the case of *fO2* equal to ΔNNO  $350 = -1$ , the four-phase intersection of quartz, plagioclase, clinopyroxene, and magnetite (P\_4) QFCM) is 50 MPa, which is in excellent agreement with the P\_4 QFOM pressures. Therefore, we suggest that the orthopyroxene predicted by rhyolite-MELTS is a good proxy for the low-Ca clinopyroxene present in the natural samples in Krafla magmas. Energetically, they are almost

indistinguishable by rhyolite-MELTS for these Krafla compositions. It is also relevant to note

that recent experimental results suggest that the clinopyroxene model in rhyolite-MELTS may be

inaccurate for high-silica rhyolite compositions (Brugman and Till, 2019). Interestingly, our

results suggest that – in this case – orthopyroxene is a useful proxy for clinopyroxene stability.

*Very shallow magma bodies as part of transcrustal magmatic systems*

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that magmatic systems span a significant range

of storage depths within the crust – leading to the idea of transcrustal magma systems (Annen *et* 

*al.*, 2006; Annen, 2009; Cashman and Giordano, 2014; Menand *et al.*, 2015; Mutch *et al.*, 2019;

Svoboda *et al.*, 2021; Giordano and Caricchi, 2022). The existence of very shallow magma

bodies indicates that we must extend our model of storage to a shallower level.

 It is interesting to consider why these bodies have been largely underappreciated to date, with much more attention being paid to deeper levels of rhyolitic magmatic systems. The lifetimes of shallow melt-dominated magma bodies are short (Gualda *et al.*, 2012b, 2018; Cooper and Kent, 2014; Pamukçu *et al.*, 2015a, 2021; Gualda and Sutton, 2016; Pitcher *et al.*, 2021), especially when a geothermal reservoir is present (Kelly *et al.*, 2021). We speculate that very shallow magma bodies could commonly be a minor contribution to major eruptions. Their proximity to the Earth's surface makes them economically and societally important, especially from a volcanic hazards perspective.

The very shallow storage pressures calculated here are from Krafla in the plume-affected mid-

ocean rift of Iceland. Shallow magmas are also inferred to exist in the rifted arc of the TVZ in

Aotearoa New Zealand (Bégué *et al.*, 2014b; Gualda *et al.*, 2018; Harmon *et al.*, 2024). For both

Krafla and the TVZ, the magma systems are long-lived and indicate that there is a consistent

high heat flux to the shallow crust (Jonasson, 1994; Wilson, 1996; Mutch *et al.*, 2019; Kelly *et* 

*al.*, 2021), consistent with involvement of greater depths of the crust in the generation and

storage of eruption-forming magma bodies (Gualda *et al.*, 2018, 2019; Smithies *et al.*, 2023).

*Implications for global shallow magmatism*

In addition to drilling evidence of very shallow magma at depths between 2.1 and 2.6 km at

Puna, Hawaii (Teplow *et al.*, 2009), Menengai Caldera, Kenya (Mbia *et al.*, 2015), and Krafla

geothermal system, Iceland (Mortensen *et al.*, 2010; Elders *et al.*, 2011; Zierenberg *et al.*, 2013),

the potential presence of very shallow silicic magma has also been captured by 2D and 3D

seismic exploration at the Larderello geothermal field, Italy (Cameli *et al.*, 1993; Manzella *et al.*,

2017; Rochira *et al.*, 2018) and by InSAR data at the Dabbahu volcano, Afar, Ethiopia (Ebinger

*et al.*, 2008). Geophysical methods, including seismic data and InSAR, are likely critical for

determining the presence of current, very shallow magma bodies.

In addition to the direct evidence at drilled magma sites, the rhyolite-MELTS evidence from

previous eruptions in the TVZ, and the indirect observations by geophysical methods, there is

substantial field and petrologic evidence (mostly Al-in-hornblende and Qz'-Ab'-Or' barometry,

as well as common granophyric textures) for very shallow magma bodies in the plutonic record.

We briefly summarize some examples below.

In the case of the Searchlight pluton in Nevada (Bachl *et al*. 1991, Wallrich *et al*. 2023), which is

exposed along steeply tilted crustal sections, the upper units of the pluton intruded into roughly

coeval volcanic rocks, suggesting very shallow emplacement. Further, Al-in-hornblende

geobarometry suggests that the roof of the pluton was at a depth of ~3 km (Bachl *et al.*, 2001;

Wallrich *et al.*, 2023). The Geysers in California is one of the world's most active geothermal

fields and has a plutonic history that includes shallow intrusions ~0.2-2.8 km depth,

exemplifying the connection between shallow plutonism and geothermal energy production

(Angeles-De La Torre, *et al.*, 2023). In the case of the Turkey Creek and Silver Creek calderas in

401 Arizona, resurgent monzonite and granite intruded at very shallow levels  $( $\sim 2$  km) (du Bray and$ 

Pallister, 1999; Ferguson *et al.*, 2013; McDowell *et al.*, 2014; Deering *et al.*, 2016). The Mount

Scott Granite, Oklahoma, is interpreted to have been emplaced into comagmatic Carlton Rhyolite

at a depth of no more than ~1.5 km (Hogan and Gilbert, 1995; Hogan *et al.*, 1998). The

emplacement depth of Cretaceous granitoid plutons in eastern Zhejiang, China is estimated to

406 have been at 50-100 MPa  $(\sim 2-4 \text{ km})$  based on the Qz'-Ab'-Or' ternary (Chen *et al.*, 2021). Al-in-

hornblende geobarometry yields emplacement depths of ~4-5 km at the top of the Rayo Bisco-

Huemul plutonic complex, Chile (Nelson *et al.*, 1999; Schaen *et al.*, 2017). The granitic

intrusions of eastern Iceland (Austurhorn, Vesturhorn, Slaufrudalur, and Reyðarártindur plutons)

are all interpreted to have been emplaced into slightly older basaltic strata at depths of <~2 km,

based on depths to reconstructed paleosurfaces and metamorphism (Walker, 1960, 1974; Blake,

1966; Furman *et al.*, 1992; Burchardt *et al.*, 2012; Padilla *et al.*, 2016; Twomey *et al.*, 2020;

Rhodes *et al.*, 2021). Granophyric lithic blocks within pumiceous pyroclastic flows are

interpreted to have formed in the magma body beneath Alid Volcanic Center, Eritrea, at a depth

415 of 2-4 km based on geological constraints and  $CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O$  concentrations in melt inclusions

(Lowenstern *et al.*, 1997). It is noteworthy that many of these localities are significantly affected

by extension, which could suggest that extension and rifting may facilitate establishment of these

very shallow magma bodies. Overall, the evidence above suggests that very shallow rhyolitic

magma bodies are relatively common, and it is critical to better understand them for hazard

assessment and economic exploration. As well, these very shallow magma bodies are probably

important components of transcrustal magma systems that deserve further study.

Methods to petrologically and geophysically monitor the existence and the potential hazards

associated with these very shallow magma bodies should be established to mitigate volcanic

hazards. The substantial petrologic evidence that these magma bodies not only exist but are

relatively widespread should be a call for the combined use of geophysics, hazard assessment,

and petrology to properly assess the presence, properties, and potential societal impacts of very

shallow magma bodies, especially as we begin to directly probe these magmas (Eichelberger *et* 

*al.*, 2018; Lavallée *et al.*, 2023). This environment has been underappreciated as a potential

magma storage zone, with implications for volcanic hazards and geothermal resources.

#### *Conclusions*

 In this study, we test rhyolite-MELTS geobarometry on the shallow magma intersected and retrieved from Krafla IDDP-1 geothermal well. Using the glass compositions as the input, we search for mineral-melt equilibrium conditions in temperature, pressure, and *fO2* space to calculate the storage conditions of these magmas. Rhyolite-MELTS returns four-phase (quartz, plagioclase, orthopyroxene, magnetite; P\_4 QFOM) pressures of 42 MPa (1.6-1.7 km) for  $\triangle NNO = -0.75$  and 46 MPa (1.7-1.9 km) for  $\triangle NNO = -1$ , which is in excellent agreement with the drilled depth of 2.1 km. While rhyolite-MELTS calculates both quartz and orthopyroxene (instead of augite + pigeonite) to be in equilibrium with melt of the input composition, these phases are not observed in the samples. Despite these discrepancies, we argue that rhyolite-MELTS performs with high precision for this system.

 The fact that we can obtain rhyolite-MELTS pressures consistent with the drilled depth lends support to rhyolite-MELTS results in other systems that produce very shallow pressures, like the

Taupō Volcanic Zone, Aotearoa New Zealand. We show that rhyolite-MELTS can be used to

calculate not only the pressures of storage based on a variety of mineral assemblages, but that it

can also help constrain other intensive parameters such as *fO2* and H2O-saturation during pre-

eruptive storage.

Contemporary very shallow magma bodies are confirmed in several locations, including the

Krafla IDDP-1 well, and they may be relatively common features of transcrustal magmatic

systems, including from the TVZ.

- Coupling the magmatic information revealed by very shallow magma bodies with geophysical
- models and volcanic hazard assessments has broad implications for both geothermal energy

production and volcanic hazards. Further, if we know the depths and conditions of these magma

bodies (e.g., by using rhyolite-MELTS), we can better understand the arrangement of melt-

dominated magma bodies during ongoing eruptions. This updated perspective will aid in

- reconfiguring conceptual models and refine the focus of eruption monitoring platforms for silicic
- magma storage in the upper crust.

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# **Author contributions**

- Conceptualization: BMW, GARG, LJH, CFM
- Methodology: LJH, GARG, BMW
- Investigation: LJH, GARG, BMW, CFM
- Visualization: LJH, GARG
- Supervision: GARG, LJH
- Writing—original draft: LJH
- Writing—review & editing: LJH, GARG, CFM, BMW

# **Competing interests**

Authors declare that they have no competing interests.

# **Data and materials availability**

All data are available in the main text or the supplementary materials.

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#### **Figure Captions and Tables**











**ternary diagram.** Projection of individual glass compositions and the average glass composition

from Krafla RHL glass shards (Masotta *et al.*, 2018) and glass compositions from TVZ

ignimbrite pumice (Bégué *et al.*, 2014; Gualda *et al.,* 2018) onto the quartz-albite-orthoclase

(Qz'-Ab'-Or') ternary diagram using the projection scheme of Blundy and Cashman (2001),

which relies only on the glass compositions. The Krafla RHL compositions plot mostly between

- 780 the 50 MPa and 100 MPa cotectic, with the average composition plotting at  $\sim$  50 MPa. The TVZ
- compositions plot mostly between 50 and ~150 MPa, predominantly around the 100 MPa
- cotectic. Note that the Krafla RHL compositions plot slightly shallower than TVZ compositions.
- Importantly, inferred pressures are maximum pressures if quartz is not in equilibrium with the
- melt.





# **Fig. 3. Results from rhyolite-MELTS pressure modeling for all individual Krafla RHL**

**compositions** (Masotta *et al.*, 2018)**.** We report the P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM

pressures for all *fO2* considered. Note the narrow range of pressures that return a P\_4 QFOM

789 pressure, which is the most sensitive to  $f_{O2}$ . There is a strong mode at ~45-55 MPa for all

assemblages, with slightly higher values for P\_4 QFOM pressures.



792 **Fig. 4. Rhyolite-MELTS storage pressures for the Krafla RHL average glass composition,** 

791

793 **showing the effect of**  $f_{O2}$  **on pressure calculations. In the top panel, the central red divot**  $(\sim 40)$ 

794 MPa and  $\triangle NNO = \sim 0.75$ ) shows the conditions that retrieves the best pressure and  $f_{O2}$  estimate

- 795 based on the lowest residual temperature when all four phases are considered (P\_4 QFOM). The
- 796 middle panel shows the same data as a 2D contour plot. For readability, residual values  $> 80 °C$
- 797 are shown as 80 °C. The bottom panel shows the residual temperatures (the difference between
- 798 the saturation curves of different phases) for individual rhyolite-MELTS calculations, which is
- 799 compiled to create the two upper panels. For most  $f_{O2}$  values, particularly between  $\triangle NNO = -$
- 800 1.25 to -0.75, estimated pressures are between 40 and 50 MPa. Calculations outside this *fO2*
- 801 interval  $(\triangle NNO < -1.5$  and  $\triangle NNO > -0.75)$  yield no pressures.



 **Fig. 5. Rhyolite-MELTS results for the Monte Carlo analysis.** The Monte Carlo analysis included 600 synthetic compositions that varied about the mean of the Krafla RHL composition, using the calculated standard deviation, with *fO2* values from ΔNNO = -2 to 0 distributed uniformly in 0.5 *fO2* steps. Left panel shows rhyolite-MELTS P\_4 QFOM pressure results from 807 the Monte Carlo analysis. The only  $f_{O2}$  values that resulted in a P<sub>-4</sub> QFOM pressure calculation 808 are  $f_{O2}$  equal to  $\triangle NNO -1$  and  $\triangle NNO -0.5$ , shown in the middle two panels. This indicates we can determine the pressure and the *fO2* of the system. The right panel shows rhyolite-MELTS P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QOF and P\_3 QFM pressure results from the Monte Carlo simulations for all *fO2* values considered. In all cases, modes of the distributions are in the 45-55 MPa bins.



# **(A) Mean pressure calculation (MPa) and depth (km)<sup>1</sup>**

# **(B) Standard deviation pressure calculation (MPa) and depth (km)<sup>2</sup>**



# (C) Number of compositions that return pressures for each  $f_{O2}^3$



812 **Table 1. Pressure calculations for Krafla RHL individual compositions**.

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- <sup>1</sup>Mean of P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM storage pressures for Krafla RHL individual composition for different *fO2* reported in MPa and km; the
- densities used to convert pressure to depth are  $2,700 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and  $2,500 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- 815 <sup>2</sup>Standard deviation of P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM storage pressures for Krafla RHL individual compositions reported in MPa and km
- <sup>3</sup> Number of compositions that returned storage pressures for each *fO2*. Note that the averages of P\_3 QFO and P\_3 QFM include the P\_4 QFOM pressures in
- the average and standard deviation calculations since the P\_4 pressure will also return a P\_3 pressure.



**(A) Mean pressure calculation (MPa) and depth (km) <sup>1</sup>**

# **(B) Standard deviation pressure calculation (MPa) and depth (km) <sup>2</sup>**



# (C) Number of compositions that return pressures for each  $f_{O2}^3$



819 **Table 2. Pressure calculations for Monte Carlo compositions from Krafla average composition.**

820 **<sup>1</sup>** Mean of P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM storage pressures for Monte Carlo Krafla RHL compositions for different *fO2* reported in MPa and km; the

densities used to convert pressure to depth are  $2,700 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and  $2,500 \text{ kg/m}^3$ 821

This is a non-peer reviewed preprint submitted to EarthArXiv

- **<sup>2</sup>**822 Standard deviation of P\_4 QFOM, P\_3 QFO, and P\_3 QFM storage pressures for Monte Carlo Krafla RHL compositions reported in MPa and km
- 823 **<sup>3</sup>** Number of compositions that returned storage pressures for each *fO2*. Note that the averages of P\_3 QFO and P\_3 QFM include the P\_4 QFOM pressures in
- 824 the average, standard deviation calculations since the P\_4 pressure will also return a P\_3 pressure.